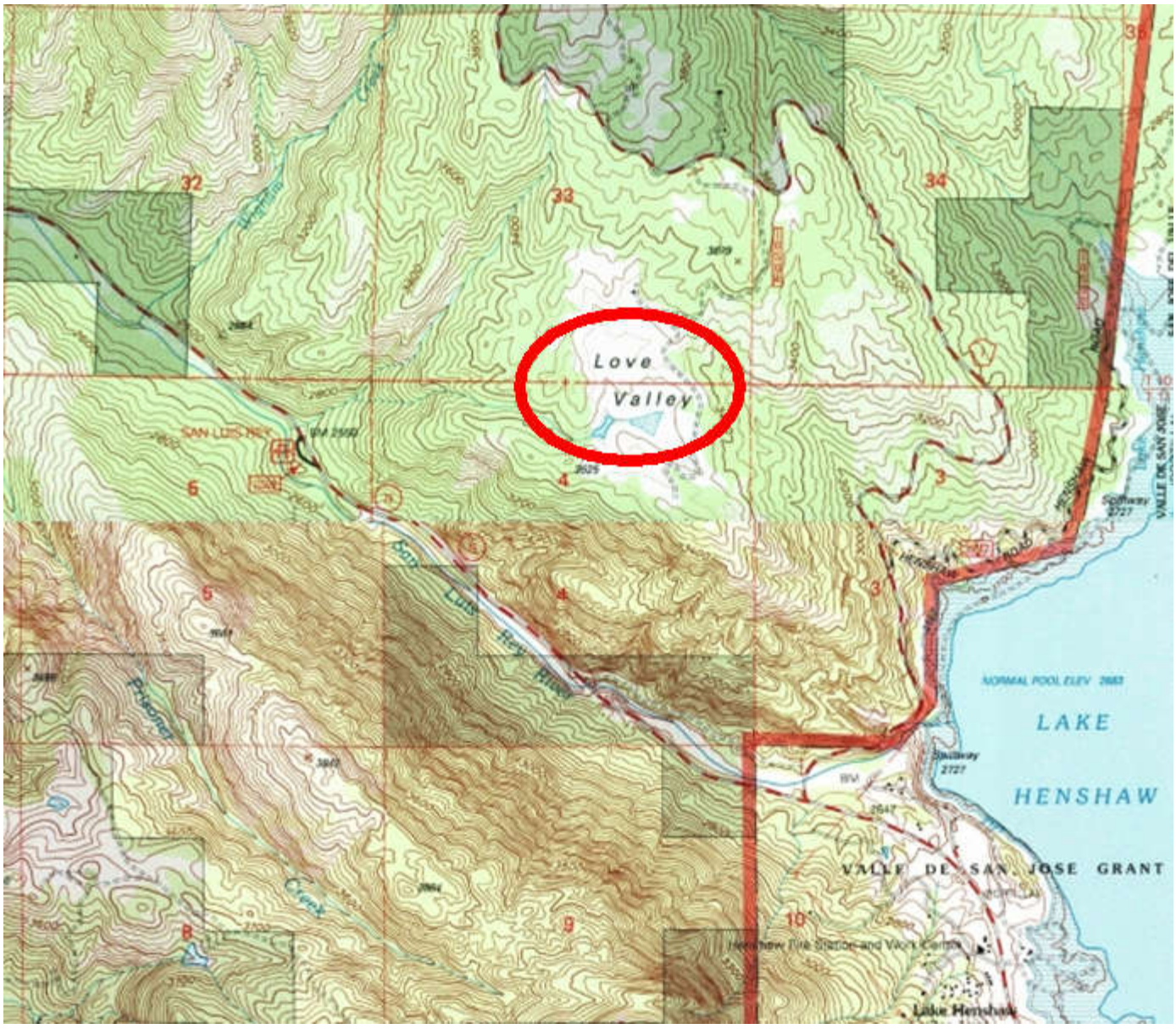
John A. Love and Love Valley on Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman, 2026

Information and photograph sources in this biography are cited **except** for ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and findagrave.com; therefore, an uncited fact or photograph came from those sources. Property records were not researched; the properties noted are listed in the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records database or found in newspaper notices.

Love Valley on Palomar Mountain is named after John A. Love (1843-1927) [3].



Love Valley on the east side of Palomar Mountain

Composite of 1997 U.S.G.S. Palomar Observatory and Mesa Grande maps

For background, Palomar Mountain was also known as Smith Mountain for many years. The first and continuing post office on Palomar Mountain was named "Nellie" from 1883 to 1920. A second post office on Palomar Mountain started six years after the Nellie post office moved from the east side of Palomar Mountain to Bailey's on the west side; it was named "Jessee" and functioned from 1896 to 1904.

John A. Love was born in New Brunswick, Canada in June 1843, and he emigrated to the U.S. in 1864. The 1910 and 1920 U.S. Census record him emigrating in 1876 and 1866 respectively.

1843 BIRTH YEAR? The Canada Census of 1851 and 1861 records his age as 8 and 18 respectively, and thus his birth year is approximately 1843. The 1880 U.S. Census records his age as 38 on July 12-16, 1880, and thus his birth year would be 1842. The 1900 U.S. Census records his birth as May 1849. The 1910 U.S. Census records his age as 66 in May, and thus his birth year at the time of the census would be 1844. The 1920 U.S. Census records his age as 76 in January, and thus his birth year at the time of the census would be 1844. On August 30, 1927, the San Diego Union published Love's death notice; he died in San Diego on August 29, 1927, aged 84 years, 2 months, so that puts his birth as June 1843 [3]. His gravestone says he was born December 29, 1845.

In the 1870 U.S. Census, John A. Love is listed in the city of San Diego with the occupation farmer.

Love became a U.S. citizen on August 14, 1871, in San Diego County Court and was a farmer in South San Diego when he registered to vote on August 14, 1871. He is listed as living in San Diego in the San Diego County voter registers for 1872, 1873, and 1875-1879.

In the 1880 U.S. Census enumerated on July 12-16, 1880, John A. Love, age 38, is recorded in the city of San Diego with the occupation of miner

In the 1880 Great Register of San Diego County for voters, John A. Love was living in San Diego Ward 3.

In 1882, John A. Love married Lucy Reed Hoaglund (born in New Jersey on December 29, 1845; died in San Diego on October 18, 1911).

In September 1893, the National City Record published a Chollas Valley Echoes column which mentioned John Love's San Diego County residential locations preceding Palomar Mountain [13]:

> CHOLLAS VALLEY ECHOES … The owner of one of the 10-acre tracts of land, close by us on the mesa, purchased by Mr. Hale, was John A. Love, known by many old settlers in and about San Diego. Mr. Love was a rancher in lower Spring Valley many years ago, but he sold out there, bought property in this valley …

In September 1897, the National City Record published another Chollas Valley Echoes column which mentioned John Love's San Diego County residential location preceding Palomar Mountain [16]:

> CHOLLAS VALLEY ECHOES: …John A. Love … was an old neighbor of mine in Spring Valley before he married Miss Hoagland a school marm, and then he settled at the mouth of South Chollas, where he owned valuable property, but his health failed him near the coast so he sold out well …

On the map below, Chollas Creek's watershed (labelled Las Choyas) extends inland from San Diego Bay. The first newspaper item said John Love owned acreage "close by us on the mesa" and that he ranched before that in lower Spring Valley, which is far right. The second newspaper item said John Love lived at the mouth of South Chollas/Choyas.

[17]

On October 28, 1884, Bertrand Peyregne sold John A. Love 160 acres on Palomar Mountain for $1,000 [4].

On August 20, 1885, a San Diego back country travelogue was published in the National City Record which included a visit to John Love's Palomar ranch [7]:

> A Camping Trip in San Diego County,
>
> Dear Record, Being invited to give a description of our trip to the mountains, we will try and do so. … WEDNESDAY, 29. -- From Warner's ranch we traveled through the valley and arrived at the foot of Smith's mountain about 8 o'clock, where we all, except the driver, got out and walked – the grade was the worst we had met with. The Atkinson grade is quite level compared with this, although the road-bed is much better. The first ranch that we came to, after we came up the grade, was that of **Mr. John Love**, formerly a resident of San Diego. On top of the mountain there is quite a settlement, one being that of Mr. Smith, who was the original owner of the ranch, but now dead; another, that of the "Nellie" postoffice – the name given to the office, we were told, was in honor of the young lady postmistress. We went as far as Dimond's valley, where we met Mr. B.F. Larue, who kindly informed us that the owner of Iron Spring had forbidden campers from stopping at that point – they having frightened his stock by shooting, etc. So we rested, and after chatting with Mr. and Mrs. Larue and procuring hay for our team, we turned back for the Cuyamaca mountains, and after traveling a few miles we camped for the night. THURSDAY, 30. – In coming down the mountain this morning the method adopted was, to cut a small oak tree and tie it to the back of the wagon, with two of our party on the tree, and with our wagon-brake, we managed to get down the mountain much easier than we got up. …

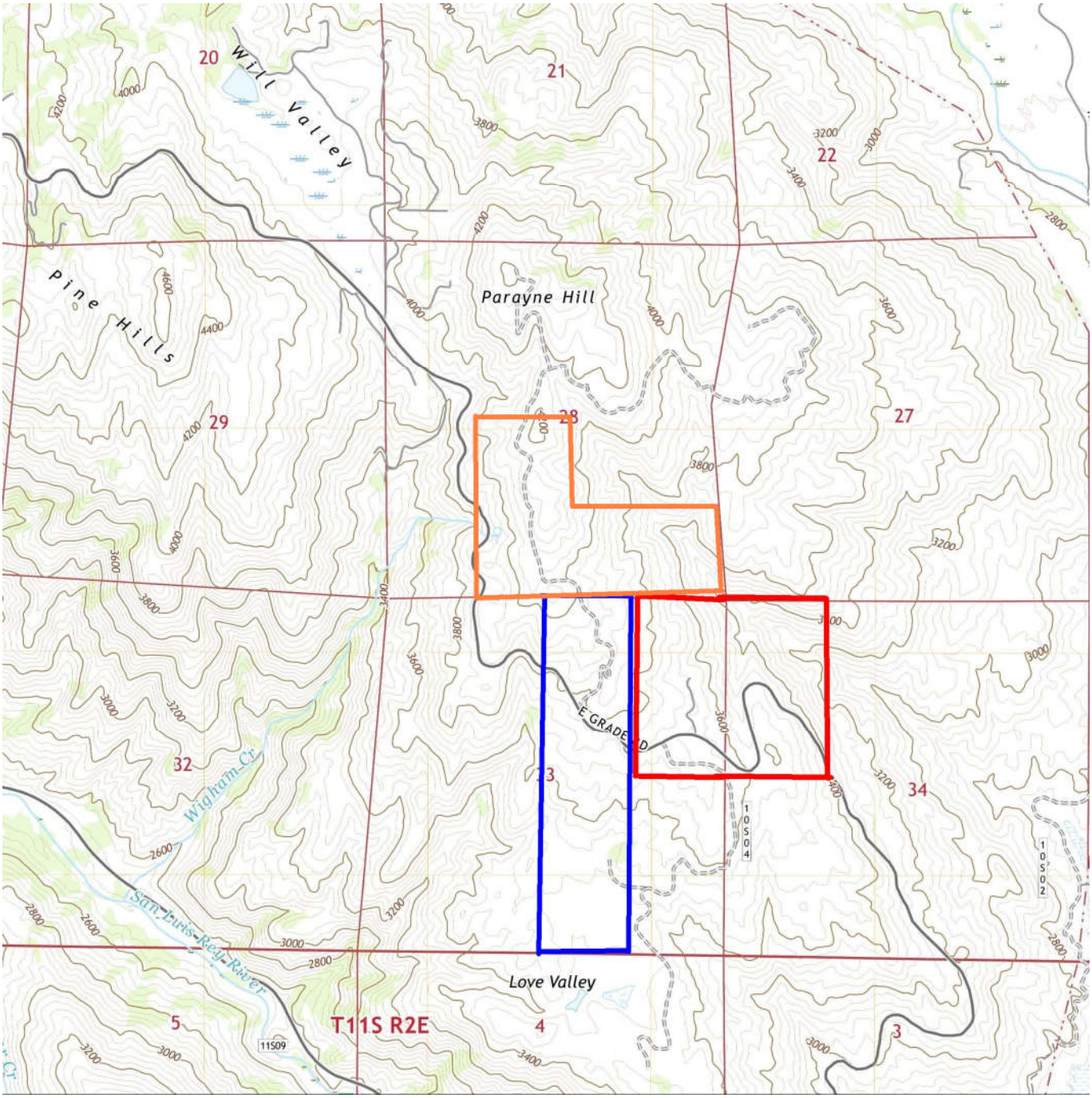
A September 1885 notice of land filing by Ulysse Doret for land on Palomar Mountain just north of John A. Love, named Love as a witness to prove continuous residence; other witnesses were Palomar Mountain residents Angus McQueen, George W. Cook and Emil Grant [5].

In October 1885, John Love filed a lawsuit "… against Amy C.V. Schaeggs in the Superior Court to partition the W ½ of the NE ¼ and the W ¼ of the NE ¼ and the W ½ of the SE ¼ of section 33, township 10 south, range 2 east, SBM., containing 160 acres. [8]" This property is bounded by the blue lines on the maps below. In November 1885, the Love versus Schaeggs case was settled [9]. A $650 Palomar Mountain real estate sale from John A. Love to Amy C.V. Schaeggs was published on November 14, 1885; this was for an undivided ½ of 160 acres in Section 33, Township 10S, Range 2E [6]. In November 1882 and 1883, Amy C.V. Schaeggs (1845 – c1910) was listed as the Palomar school teacher with a Nellie post office address [11]. She resigned from Palomar teaching by March 1884 [2].

A $400 Palomar Mountain real estate sale from Ulyse Doret to John A. Love was published on November 14, 1885 [6].

On December 17, 1885, the San Diego Sun newspaper reported a recorded real estate transaction for John A. Love purchasing lot 4, block 8, Bay View homestead for $350 [24]. This was located in downtown San Diego within the Cortez Hill neighborhood.

On October 6, 1888, it was recorded that John A. Love purchased from the U.S. government 160 acres on the east side of Palomar Mountain located southeast of Will Valley [1].



John Love's 1884 (blue lines), 1885 (orange lines) and 1888 (red lines) Palomar Mountain land purchases
overlaid on the 2021 Palomar Observatory map

The name Parayne Hill in upper center of this 2021 map is misspelled from its namesake, and refers to Bertrand Peyregne who sold John A. Love his Palomar Mountain land in 1884 (blue lines) [4].

By 1888 or earlier, John Love had relocated farther south in San Diego County to Alpine; he was appointed to the Alpine Chamber of Commerce Committee in December 1888 [10]. On August 27, 1891, the Sun San Diego published [12]:

> Alpine Lemon Orchards
>
> The following is vouched for by Harvey C. Stiles: A branch twelve feet long, now on exhibition at the Chamber of Commerce, is the growth of one year on a Eureka lemon tree in John Love's orchard at Alpine. The tree is twenty-nine months old from planting, and has now on the branches 100 lemons in various stages of development. In the same grove are Villa Franca and Bonnie Brae lemons and Washington Navel, Mediterranean Sweet and Tangerine oranges of same age and showing the same growth. Alpine orange and lemon groves will soon be noted.

Love's Alpine 40-acre property was located at the northwest corner of Tavern Road and South Grade Road [20].

The book *An Illustrated History of Southern California*, published in 1890, has a biography on Love [21].

> John A. Love, agriculturist, was born at Dalhousie, New Brunswick, Mary 19, 1846. He was the second of the seven children of Alexander Love, a native of Scotland, who came to the province of New Brunswick in 1835. The family came to San Diego city some twenty years ago. John A. Love, however, was the pioneer of the family in California, as he had lived in the northern part of the State about five years before the family came to the Pacific coast. The first years of his living in San Diego were spent in speculating in real estate and in agriculture. His health failing, he went into the stock-raising business at Palomar mountain, seventy five miles from San Diego. Not liking to live so far from the city, he purchased a small but choice ranch at Alpine, thirty miles from San Diego. In 1881 he married Lucy R. Hoagland, a teacher who came from the East. Mr. Love takes the delight peculiar to the old settlers in relating the trials and tribulations that fall to the lot of the pioneer. He shot cotton-tail rabbits and quail on the ground where now stands the city. Once, after leaving a ranch out in Tia Juana to stay in town a few days, upon returning to it he found house, barn and all farming implements missing. Taking a chum, he proceeded to Mexico, rescued some of his property, but of the buildings he could hear nothing. Many of his friends were cruelly murdered by the Indians and Mexicans, who completely terrorized the country in those early days. He gives great credit to Mr. Hunsaker, then the Sheriff, for the quiet that followed his term, and for the extermination of the leaders of the outrages. Mr. Love now lives on his Alpine ranch, which is being rapidly developed

> into a model farm. Having traveled over the State in search of health, he considers that at Alpine, in his own county, he has found an ideal climate, both for people and for fruits.

John A. Love is listed as a farmer in Alpine in the Great Register of San Diego County for 1891 and 1894.

In May 1893, the San Diegan Sun published [14]:

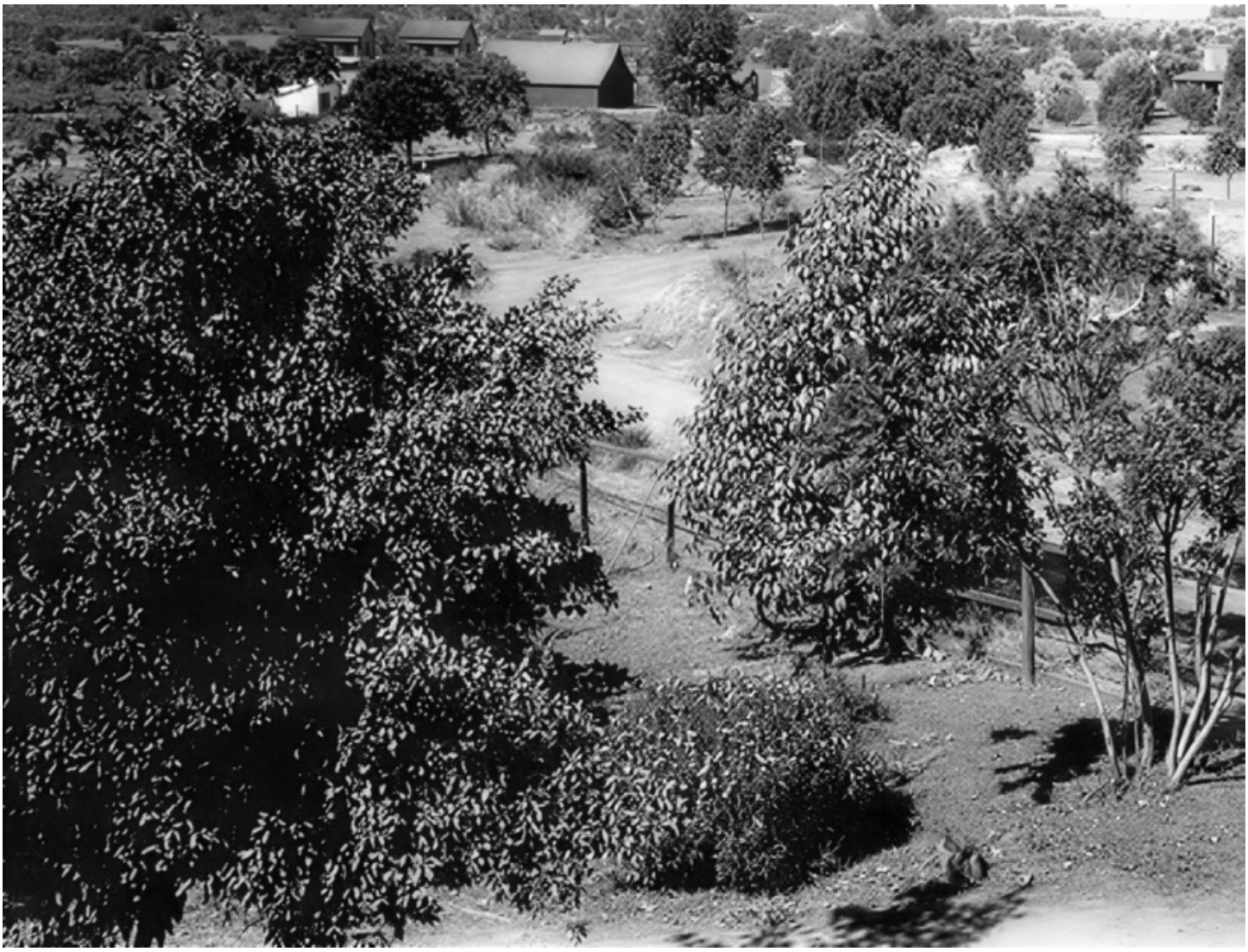
> ALPINE CORRESPONDENCE
>
> Five miles from El Cajon postoffice the road to the mountain passes under the flume, and there the climb begins. The first ranch passed is that of W.E. Flynn, who settled there some thirty years ago. Six miles further on is Alpine Centre, a beautiful tableland at 1850 feet altitude, with the necessities of a village well provided by Charles Emery. So noted has the region become as a sanitorium for asthmatics and consumptives that John Love has had to erect two new cottages for boarders. This 40-acre ranch is one of the beauty spots of the mountain. It is well supplied with all kinds of fruits; and although at an altitude of 1900 feet frost has never yet damaged anything, even a grapefruit tree is literally loaded. M.A. Beebe, one-half mile from Mr. Emery's store, is erecting a new 11-room house opposite the old one. B.R. Arnold has a fine residence property which adds much to the attractiveness o of the place. Demands are constantly being made for cottages to rent; a good investment for some capitalist.

In September 1893, the National City Record published [13]:

> CHOLLAS VALLEY ECHOES … The owner of one of the 10-acre tracts of land, close by us on the mesa, purchased by Mr. Hale, was John A. Love, known by many old settlers in and about San Diego. Mr. Love was a rancher in lower Spring Valley many years ago, but he sold out there, bought property in this valley and finally, on account of his health, moved with his wife, who was formerly a school marm in this county, to Alpine. He has prospered there and is surrounded by neighbors who have gathered in thick since he went there. From Mr. Fred Schwerer, an old time tonsorial artist on Fifth Street, San Diego, who has recently come here after spending a couple of weeks in Alpine, I hear that many San Diegans and bay people are in the Alpine region, and Mr. Love is putting up some cottages to rent, as many people prefer hiring a cottage to boarding, but all get accommodation which is comfortable. …

In September 1895, the National City Record published [15]:

> CHOLLAS VALLEY ECHOES: … Mrs. Porter for a few days lately made her home in Alpine with Capt. Field's folks, but visiting during her stay some old friends, including Mrs. E.W. Morse, John A. Love and family and others. Mr. Love has a 3,000-peach tree orchard and has already this season four tons of the dried article ready for market. He claims to have gathered one thousand pomalos (grape-fruit) from one tree. …

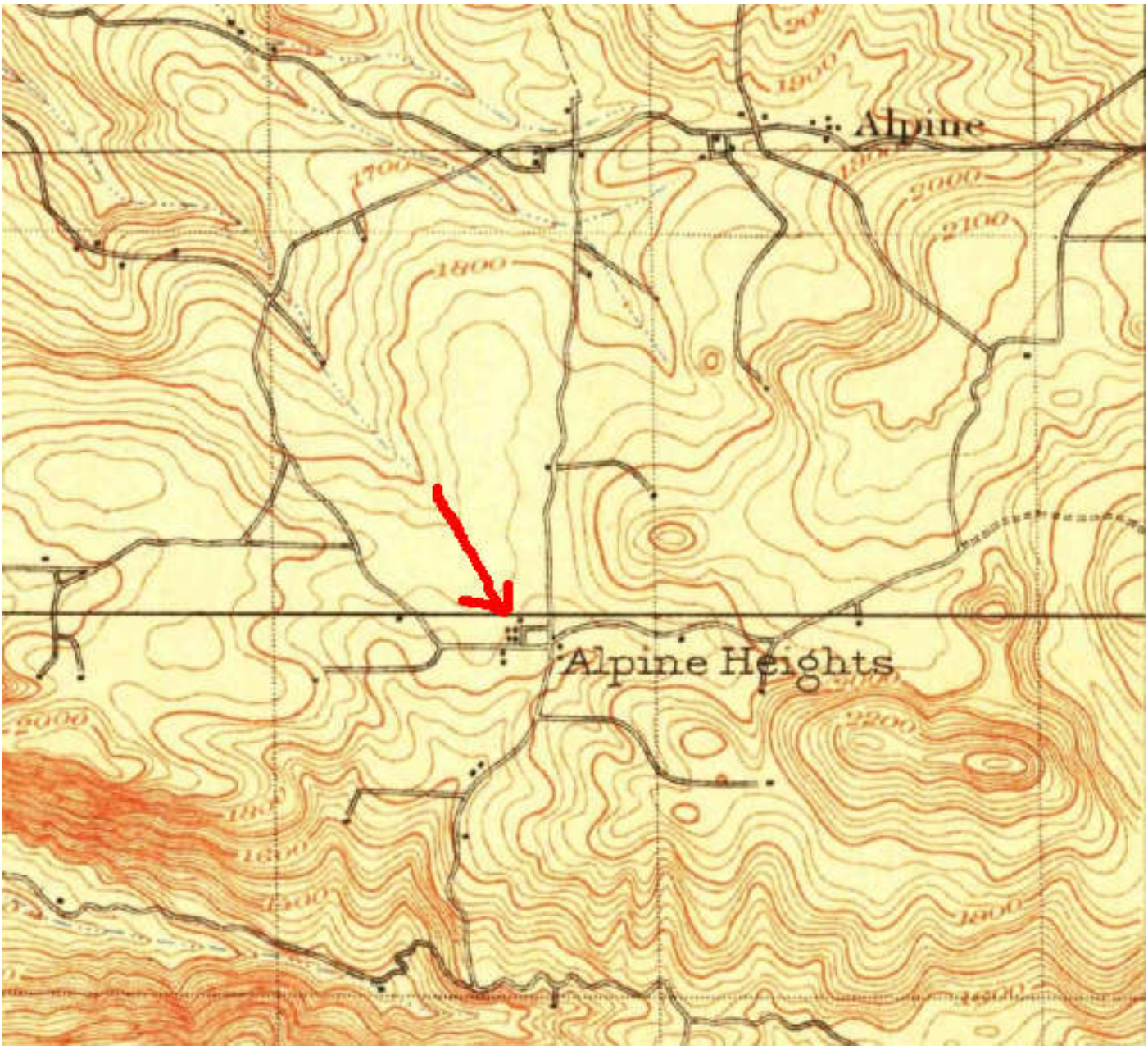


The Oaks, J.A. Love Ranch, from a resort brochure printed in the late 1800s [22]

In September 1897, the National City Record published [16]:

> CHOLLAS VALLEY ECHOES: …John A. Love the pioneer, and one of the magnates of Alpine, called to see us a day or two ago. He was an old neighbor of mine in Spring Valley before he married Miss Hoagland a school marm, and then he settled at the mouth of South Chollas, where he owned valuable property, but his health failed him near the coast so he sold

out well and began in Alpine, where he has been healthy as well as Mrs. Love and they are prosperous. …



Location of The Oaks on the 1903 USGS El Cajon map

Croquet at The Oaks resort, undated [23]

On June 4, 1900, the 1900 U.S. Census recorded John A. Love as a farmer in Alpine, born May 1849, with 1864 as his year of immigration followed by 56 years of living in the U.S., and married 18 years to his wife Lucy R. Love, born in New Jersey in December 1850. Living with them was Hulda Schultz, a companion, and Lucy's brother Abram and sister Harriet. Lucy's sibling's last names are misspelled as Hogland in the census; their names are Abram or Abraham W. Hoagland (1840-1913) and Harriett Romeyn Hoagland (1847-1931).

On June 17, 1905, the San Diegan-Sun newspaper reported a recorded real estate transaction for John A. Love and Lucy R. Love selling to Lois R.W. Glenn, lots 9 to 12, block 3, Fifth Stret addition for $10 [25]

In August 1906, the San Diego Union published [18]:

> ALPINE RESORT, "THE OAKS," SOLD TO HORACE M'PHEE
> Alpine, August 8. – John A. Love has sold his resort, "The Oaks," to Horace McPhee, of Santa Ana. McPhee and brother, Harry McPhee, returned to San Diego on Sunday last by special stage. Harry McPhee will return in about ten days and take charge of The Oaks.

On May 11-13, 1910, the 1910 U.S. Census recorded John Love as a farmer in Alpine, age 66 (thus born in 1844), with 1866 as his year of immigration., and married 28 years to his wife Lucy R. Love, born in New Jersey, age 58. Living with them was Lewis R. White, age 9, a ward.

John Love's wife Lucy Reed Love died October 18, 1911.

On January 2, 1920, the 1920 U.S. Census records John A. Love living in the City of San Diego, age 76 (thus born in 1844), born in Canada, widowed, with year emigrated in 1866 and naturalized in 1872.

Ye Alpine Tavern
Ye Alpine Tavern
The Oaks, Viejas Vista,
Wildwood Glen
Thirty-three miles east of San Diego over the paved Lee highway are Ye Alpine Tavern, The Oaks, one and a half miles to the south of this resort up a good dirt road, and Viejas Vista, right at the town of Alpine.
Splendid hunting is to be had in this section at all seasons and fishing may be reached by motor.
Burros and horses are available at The Oaks and Ye Alpine Tavern, while a splendid tennis court and croquet ground interest guests at Viejas Vista. Fine dry tonic air and an altitude of about 2,000 feet are found here.
Another lovely resort eight miles farther up the Lee highway is Wildwood Glen at an elevation of 3,300 feet, in a picturesque grove of oak trees beside the Sweetwater river. Swings, a kiddies' playground and wading pools furnish recreation for the children while its beauty appeals to all.
The Oaks
Viejas Vista
Wild Wood Glen

The Oaks in a 1926 brochure, twenty years after John A. Love sold it [19].

On August 30, 1927, the San Diego Union published Love's death notice; he died in San Diego on August 29, 1927, aged 84 years, 2 months, so he was born June 1843 (his gravestone says he was born December 29, 1845) [3]. John A. Love is buried with his wife Lucy.

Findagrave ID 107072417

References

1= U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records [red lines on map: T10S R2E, section 33, E ½ of NE ¼, section 34 W ½ of NW ¼] glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx
2= San Diego School Records, R2.68. Folders: Cedar Grove 1899-1905; Malava 1877-1903; Palomar 1884-1909. San Diego History Center Archives
3= San Diego Union, August 30, 1927, page 5, column 7
4= The Sun San Diego, November 1, 1884, page 3, column 3 [blue lines on map: 10S 2E, section 33, W ½ of NE ¼ and W ½ of SE ¼]
5= San Diego Sun, September 28, 1885, page 4, column 4
6= Daily San Diegan, November 14, 1885, page 3, column 3 [orange lines on map: 10S R2E, section 28, S ½ of SE ¼, E ½ or SW ½]
7= National City Record, August 20, 1885, page 4, column 2
8= San Diego Union, October 4, 1885, page 3, column 4
9= Daily San Diegan, November 13, 1885, page 3, column 1
10= Weekly San Diegan, December 13, 1888, page 5, column 6
11= San Diego Sun, November 18, 1882, page 4, column 1; San Diego Union, November 27, 1883, page 3, column 4
12= The Sun San Diego, August 27, 1891, page 5, column 1
13= National City Record, September 14, 1893, page 7, column 1
14= San Diegan Sun, May 25, 1893, page 4, column 4
15= National City Record, September 5, 1895, page 7, column 3
16= National City Record, September 9, 1897, page 7, column 3
17= U.S. Geological Survey, San Diego topo map, 1904
18= San Diego Union, August 9, 1906, page 10, column 2
19= San Diego Mountain Resorts, brochure, 1926
20= Tattered Tidbits. Alpine Historical Society, 13(5):5, September-October 2019, alpinehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/AHS_v13.5_Sep-Oct2019.pdf
21= An Illustrated History of Southern California, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1890
22= J.A. Love Ranch. Taken from Resort Brochure prepared in late 1800s. From the Alpine Historical Society Document Archives. alpinehistory.org/timeline/
23= Tattered Tidbits. Volume 13, Issue 5. September–October, 2019. Alpine Historical Society. Page 5
24= The San Diego Sun, December 17, 1885, page 3, column 3
25= The San Diegan-Sun, June 17, 1905, page 7, column 5